

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) System for packaging products with immobilization by means of a shrink film covering all the products (12) arranged inside a cardboard box (1) and, after its shrinking, holding these products (12) against one another and also against the base (2) of the box (1), the packaging system using cardboard boxes (1) comprising a base (2) and a lateral band (3) in cardboard and sheets (9, 10) in heat-shrinkable material attached, via one of their edges, in the region of the join between the base (2) of the box (1) and at least two sides (4) of the lateral band (3) of this box (1), characterized in that, in addition to the sheets (9, 10) in heat-shrinkable material attached to the region of the join between the base (2) of the box (1) and the lateral band (3) of this box (1), provision is made for an additional heat-shrinkable sheet (14) brought to the level of the upper part of the lateral band (3) or of the products (12) and connected by means of welding to the previous heat-shrinkable sheets (9, 10) in order to form a single film that is shrunk over the products (12) arranged inside the box (1), in order to immobilize them.
2. (Currently Amended) Packaging system according to Claim 1, characterized in that the additional heat-shrinkable sheet (14) has a rectangular shape corresponding to the horizontal section of the cardboard box (1).
3. (Currently Amended) Packaging system according to Claim 2, characterized in that, in the case of a cardboard box (1) provided with two heat-shrinkable sheets (9, 10) attached, respectively, in the region of the join between the base (2) of the box (1) and two opposing faces (4) of the lateral band (3) of this box (1), the additional heat-shrinkable sheet (14) is welded to the first two heat-shrinkable sheets (9, 10) along

two parallel lines so as to form, by means of the joining of the three sheets (9, 10, 14), a continuous heat-shrinkable strip.

4. (Currently Amended) Packaging system according to Claim 3, characterized in that, insofar as the three sheets (9, 10, 14) consist of uniaxially oriented heat-shrinkable plastic, the orientation directions of these three sheets (9, 10, 14) are coordinated, in particular in the transverse direction of the box (1).
5. (Currently Amended) Packaging system according to Claim 1 -any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the additional heat-shrinkable sheet (14) is joined to the first heat-shrinkable sheets (9, 10) by continuous-surface single film.
6. (Currently Amended) Packaging system according to Claim 1 -any one of the Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the additional heat-shrinkable sheet (14) is joined to the first heat-shrinkable sheets (9, 10) by discontinuous welding lines forming, after shrinkage of the film, lines of least resistance.
7. (Currently Amended) Packaging system according to any of Claims 1 to 6 Claim 1, characterized in that a heat-protection sheet (13) particularly made of paper, is inserted between the assembly of products (12) arranged inside the box (1) on the one hand and the continuous film formed by the joining of the heat-shrinkable sheets (9, 10, 14) on the other.
8. (Currently Amended) Packaging system according to Claim 2 -both of Claims 2 and 7, characterized in that the heat-protection sheet (13) has a rectangular shape corresponding to the horizontal section of the cardboard box (1) and the surface of the additional heat-shrinkable sheet (14).
9. (Currently Amended) Packaging system according to Claim 1 -any of the Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the additional heat-shrinkable sheet (14) is of a nature and/or thickness and/or color different than those of the first heat-shrinkable sheets (9, 10).

10. (Currently Amended) Method for forming packaging for products with immobilization by means of a shrink film according to Claim 1-any one of Claims 1 to 9, characterized in that, starting from a preformed cardboard box (1), in succession:

- the initially free parts of the heat-shrinkable sheets (9,10) connected to the join between the base (2) of the box (1) and the lateral band (3) of this box (1) are folded over the upper edge of faces (4) of the cardboard lateral band (7) of the box (1) that is still without its cover (6);
- the products (12) to be packaged inside the box (1) are inserted;
- the additional heat-shrinkable sheet (14) is placed over the box (1) of into the latter;
- the additional heat-shrinkable sheet (14) is welded to the first heat-shrinkable sheets (9,10) at the level of the upper part of the corresponding faces (4) of the lateral band (3) or over the products (12) arranged inside the box (1), so as to form a single continuous film; and
- this film is shrunk by means of heating, so as to tighten in over all the products (12) arranged inside the box (1).

11. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 10, characterized in that operations of welding the additional heat-shrinkable sheet (14) to the first heat-shrinkable sheets (9,10) and of shrinking the film resulting from the joining of shrinking the film resulting from the joining of these sheets (9,10,14) are carried out simultaneously.

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 10-~~or 11~~, characterized in that, if a heat-protection sheet (13) has to be inserted it is placed inside the box (1) after

insertion of the products (12) to be packaged and before insertion of the additional heat-shrinkable sheet-(14).

13. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 10 either ~~Claims 10 and 12~~, characterized in that the part (9a, 10a) of the first heat-shrinkable sheets (9, 10) folded over against the outside of the corresponding faces (4) of the lateral band (3) of the box (1) are held temporarily ~~(at 11)~~ against the outside of these faces (4) by means of adhesive bonding or by pinching, at least during the step of inserting the products (12) to be packaged.

14. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 13, characterized in that the folded-over part (9a, 10a) of the first heat-shrinkable sheets (9, 10) are held temporarily against the outside of the corresponding faces (4) of the lateral band (3) by pinching points resulting from slits, notches or impressions produced in the upper zone of the faces-(4) of the lateral band-(3).

15. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 13, characterized in that the folded-over parts (9a, 10a) of the first heat-shrinkable sheets (9, 10) are held temporarily against the outside of the corresponding faces (4) of the lateral band (3) by pinching points resulting from slits, notches or impressions produced in the upper zone of the faces (4) of the lateral band-(3).

16. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 10 any one of ~~Claims 10 to 15~~, characterized in that the additional heat-shrinkable sheet (14) is supplied by unwinding from a reel (22) of heat-shrinkable film and by cutting this film above a location receiving the box-(1), in particular above a conveyor-(17).

17. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 16, characterized in that the unwinding and cutting of the film stored on the reel (22) take place at a work station

that also carries out welding of the additional heat-shrinkable sheet (14) to the first heat-shrinkable sheets (9, 10).

18. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 12 both Claims 12 and 16, characterized in that in the case of the use of a heat-protection sheet (13), this sheet (13) is supplied by unwinding from a reel (18) of protective strip and by cutting this strip above a location receiving the box (1), in particular above the conveyor (17).